The characteristic odor given off in decay is aptly described as a pig-pen odor.

"Looking to the future, one may assert that no absolute remedy can be proposed in case of the ponds already affected. They should be cleared of weeds and substances in which the *Nostocs* may lodge; and, where it is possible to regulate the height of the water, it should not be allowed to fall rapidly in the hot weather. Large and deep bodies of water are less likely to be affected than small and shallow bodies, and gravelly b ttoms are better than muddy. The escape of steam or hot water should never be turned into ditches or streams con necting directly with water supplies. When such is the case, there is a most luxuriant growth of species of the *Nostoc* family, and the water becomes very foul."

"In one respect, the fears of the public may be set at rest. The theory that certain diseases, as fevers, are produced by germs of some low forms of plant-life, whether true or not, has no bearing on the present case. On the one hand, although we know that the species described in the present article do cause the disagreeable pig-pen odor, and do render the water at times unfit to drink, we know, on the other hand, that they do not cause the specific diseases whose origin is considered to be explained by the germ theory. The germs, so called, are all species of bacteria, distinct from the *Nostoc* family and much smaller."

"From a botanical point of view, the floating *Nostocs* are very interesting; but it is usually difficult to get good material for study unless one is on the spot. The species of *Anabæna* are especially prone to break up and decompose when sent by express, and the various preservative fluids are of little use. To determine the species one should have the spores and heterocysts in position. The best way of preparing specimens is, by means of a pipette, to drop some of the water containing the plants upon a piece of mica or glass, and let it dry. The specimens can then be sent any distance; and, on re-moistening, the plants swell up so that they can be well studied. If they do not at once recover their form, a little ammonia or potash may be added. Information about the winter condition of the vegetation is very much wanted; and especially do we need an accurate chemical knowledge of their relation to the water in which they grow."

DESTRUCTION OF OBNOXIOUS INSECTS BY MEANS OF FUNGOID GROWTHS. By Prof. A. N. Prentiss.—This pamphlet is devoted to the detailing of experiments to test the proposition that certain obnoxious insects can be destroyed by the application of the Yeast Fungus. The result seems to be that yeast cannot be depended upon to rid our house plants of the insects that commonly infest them. Of course Prof. Prentiss does not claim that his experiments decide the whole general question, for yeast may be efficient in the destruction of other obnoxious insects, or some other fungus may be used as a remedy where yeast will not act.